

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
20 October 2005 (20.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/097208 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A61B 5/055

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2005/010112

(22) International Filing Date: 25 March 2005 (25.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/556,932 26 March 2004 (26.03.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
26 January 2006

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: TISSUE OXYGENATION MEASUREMENTS

(57) Abstract: An effective contrast agent for use in MRI-based methods for directly determining tissue oxygenation in a subject using MRI equipment as well as methods for assessing tissue oxygenation were discovered. Methods employ a blood substitute bound to a water soluble polymer as an MRI contrast agent. In the experiments described herein, polyethylene glycol (PEG) derivatives of bovine hemoglobin (pegylated Hb or PEG-Hb) were used as the contrast agent.

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